



BOROUGH OF GODALMING

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health  
for 1956

TOGETHER WITH THAT OF THE

Chief

Public Health Inspector



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

for 1956.

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*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Godalming.*

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1956, the first year in which I had the privilege of serving you as your Medical Officer of Health and I am glad to say that nothing of note occurred during the year to lower the Borough's high standard of good health.

The year 1956 was remarkable for the very low incidence of Infectious Disease, only 39 cases being notified, as against 163 (largely Measles) in 1955. With an unusually high incidence of Poliomyelitis in the surrounding districts, especially in Guildford, it was fortunate that only three cases of this disease occurred in Godalming: all were in children and none was serious, there being no paralysis at any stage. Only eight cases of Infectious Disease were admitted to Hospital.

The Death Rate is as usual low, with an increasing proportion of deaths over the age of sixty-five. The Infant Mortality Rate is unbelievably low, due to the fact that there was only one death of an infant under the age of one year, a remarkable achievement for all concerned. There was no maternal death, the last one in Godalming being in 1953.

Early in 1956, the first batches of Poliomyelitis Vaccine produced in this country became available, and the parents of children born in the years 1947-1954 were invited to register their children: about one-third of the eligible children were registered. The first children were vaccinated in May, and no untoward effects were reported. The amount of vaccine available remains much below expecta-

tion and the amount required, but nevertheless a start has been made and assessment of results will be possible as the number vaccinated increases.

The protection of thirteen year old school children against Tuberculosis continued in the shape of B.C.G. vaccination, and it is hoped that more and more parents, and those concerned with independent schools, will join in to secure the benefits of the scheme. Unfortunately there was no visit from the Mass Radiography Unit to Godalming during the year.

Some of the sources of water supply at the Borough Road Pumping Station remained out of action during the year, owing to the water not being of the required standard. Fortunately the public supply remained adequate, perhaps due partly to the fact that it was a very wet summer. In the second half of the year the Water Board were making good progress with their development plan aimed at providing not only more water for the Borough, but, particularly important to Godalming householders, a water containing less iron than hitherto.

Apart from a few minor teething problems, the extension and improvements at the Sewage Disposal Works were all completed during the year, and only one complaint of nuisance from the Works was received in the Health Department, a tribute to the efficient conduct of the Works by the Manager during the difficult transitional period.

As will be seen from the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, steady progress was made in dealing with sub-standard housing, a matter much in the minds of those who have the health and welfare of our people at heart.

May I thank the members of the Health Committee and of the Council for their help and advice, which was particularly appreciated in this my first year of office. Exactly the same sentiments apply with regard to the members of my Department and the Officers of the Council for their kind help.

I am, Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. B. R. FINN,

Medical Officer of Health.

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

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### Medical Officer of Health:

A. B. R. FINN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.

### Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

A. H. M. RICHARDS, M.A., T.D., B.M., D.P.H.

### Chief Public Health Inspector:

P. A. WARNER, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

### Additional Public Health Inspector:

C. R. PESKETT, C.S.I.J.B., M.A.P.H.I.

(Both Inspectors also hold the Certificate of the  
Royal Sanitary Institute  
in Meat and other Foods Inspection.)

### Clerk:

Miss J. S. STEARNE.

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## Statistical and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area: 2,393 acres.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate, mid-year 1956):  
15,520.

Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1956), according  
to Rate Books: 4,613.

Rateable Value: £257,967.

Sum represented by a penny rate, 31st March, 1956:  
Estimated 1957-58: £1,017.

## Extracts from Vital Statistics

(Comparative of the years 1955 and 1956).

		1955			1956			England and Wales, 1956.
		Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	
Live Births	...	207	105	102	207	107	100	
Legitimate	...	197	102	95	205	106	99	
Illegitimate	...	10	3	7	2	1	1	
Live Birth Rate, per 1,000 of Estimated Population	...	13.44			13.99			15.7
Still Births —								
Legitimate	...	3	2	1	4	3	1	
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Still Birth Rate, per 1,000 Live and Still Births	...	14.28			18.95			23.0
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	...	5			1			
Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 Live Births		24.15			4.83			23.8
Deaths	...	153	80	73	153	75	78	
Death Rate, per 1,000 of Estimated Population	...	9.93			9.16			11.7

The Birth Rate is a little higher than last year, and merits no comment; both it and the Still Birth Rate are below the national figure.

As regards the Death Rate, this is around the usual figure for Godalming; deaths for males and females are approximately equal.

Apart from one baby, the earliest age at which a death occurred was thirty-four years, a remarkable instance of how progress has been made in avoiding the wastage of valuable lives in early years which used to take place less than half a century ago. Even more deaths (69%) were in persons over the age of 65, than was the case in 1955 (58%).

Once again, exactly 50% of all deaths were due to Diseases of the Heart and Arteries, and diseases of the

[illegible]

Coronary Arteries of the Heart was the largest single cause of death, mostly in men and women over the age of 65. Recent work on the subject suggests that Coronary Artery Disease is more likely to occur in those engaged in sedentary occupations. Cancer accounted for thirty-five deaths, as in 1955, and is the second largest single cause of death. There were five deaths from Lung Cancer in males and two in females; Statistics show that heavy cigarette smoking (over twenty-five per day) is a factor in the causation of the type of Lung Cancer normally found in men; for those who smoke between fifteen and twenty-five cigarettes per day the risk appears to be appreciable, while below fifteen per day the risk of Lung Cancer is statistically insignificant.

It is satisfactory to report that once again no death occurred from Tuberculosis or other infective diseases. Whereas ten years ago admission of cases of Tuberculosis to a Chest Hospital involved a considerable wait, immediate admission can now be obtained, and in fact some Chest Hospitals are turning their attention to such diseases as Bronchitis, which formerly could not receive Hospital treatment, except for the limited number admitted to general hospitals.

There was only one death in infants under one year of age and this was due to a defect present at birth. The fantastically low Infant Mortality Rate of 4.83 per 1,000 live births is recorded for Godalming, the National figure, again lower than ever, being 23.8.

### **General Provision of Health Services for the Area.**

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.** These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Public Health Laboratory at St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford. All examinations and tests are carried out free of charge to Local Authorities.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.** This work is done in the Borough by the Godalming Division of the British Red Cross Society for the County Council, using six full-time drivers manning two ambulances; attendants and other members

act in a voluntary capacity, and personnel are on the Station day and night.

Work done by the Society's personnel and ambulances during the year was as follows:—

Number of calls	...	...	...	5,417
Number of patients attended...	...	...	...	4,285
Number of miles travelled	...	...	...	47,074
Voluntary hours of duty (including cinemas, fetes, etc., also ambulances)	...	...	...	8,959

The number of hours of voluntary duty is a tremendous credit to the Red Cross members.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.** This work is carried out in the Borough by three excellent highly trained Queen's District Nurses. The work runs smoothly and has increased over the past years. Their work for 1956 is as follows:—

	Cases.	Visits.
General Visits (excluding T.B.)	435	5,763
Midwifery and Maternity	94	1,204
Tuberculosis	1	74
Ante-Natal and Post-Natal	—	343
Totals	530	7,384

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres.** (See inside back cover.)

#### (e) **Hospital Provision.**

(1) The Royal Surrey County Hospital at Guildford offers 263 beds. An average of 189 beds were occupied daily throughout the year. 10,300 out-patients made 37,015 attendances, and in addition 19,653 patients attended the casualty department. The Hospital carries a staff of Specialists in all branches of medicine and surgery with the exception of gynaecology, paediatrics and dermatology.

(2) St. Luke's Hospital, Warren Road, Guildford, offers 389 general beds and two private. There is no specified number for the Emergency Medical Service.

St. Luke's Hospital and the Royal Surrey County Hospital a few years ago exchanged certain departments so that

larger units could be made possible, and a more complete hospital service given.

(3) St. Thomas's Hospital, Hydestile, near Godalming. This hospital has 154 beds at present and most of the patients come from London, although the admission list does include patients from Godalming.

There is not a whole-time emergency service for road casualties and surgical or medical emergencies, but some emergency cases are admitted at the particular request of the doctor concerned.

(f) **Maternity and Nursing Homes.** There is one registered nursing home in the Borough in the name of the Franciscan Sisters, Mount Alvernia, Godalming, with accommodation for fifteen maternity, surgical and medical patients.

## Prevalence and Control of Infectious and other Diseases.

**Infectious Disease.** Cases of Infectious Diseases admitted to Hospital are shown in the Table:—

	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Poliomyelitis (non-paralytic) ...	3	—
Chicken-pox ... ..	1	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	2	—
Pneumonia ... ..	1	—
Measles ... ..	1	—
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Only thirty-nine cases of Infectious Disease (other than Tuberculosis) were notified during the year, as against 163 in 1955, largely due to the fact that 1956 was not a measles year in Godalming.

Cases of Infectious Disease admitted to Hospital from Godalming normally go to the Green Lane Hospital at Farnham, where they receive most kindly and efficient treatment.

**Poliomyelitis.** Mention has been made, in the introduction to this Report, of the three cases of non-paralytic

Poliomyelitis occurring in Godalming during the year. Two cases were in one family, and had no connection with the third case.

**Food Poisoning.** This was remarkable for its almost complete absence. Reference has been made in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report to the introduction of more comprehensive legislation on the subject of Food Control during 1956, and of the almost universal willing and ready co-operation of the Food Traders in carrying out the recommendations of the Health Department to conform with the new Regulations.

### Whooping Cough Immunisation.

Age at Final Injection.	Primary Injection.	Re-inforcing Injection.
Under 1 year ...	144	—
1 year ...	48	1
2 years ...	7	1
3 years ...	4	3
4 years ...	3	2
5 to 9 years ...	10	12
10 to 14 years ...	1	1
Totals	217	20

None of the cases of Whooping Cough notified occurred in immunised children.

### Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	Totals
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Measles	—	1	—	1	2	12	4	1	—	—	—	—	21
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	—	8	—	1	—	—	—	—	10
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Totals	2	1	—	1	3	21	5	2	1	—	1	2	39

### Summary of Notifications of Cases and Contacts of Infectious Diseases received from Schools.

Disease	Godalming County Grammar School	Meadrow County Secondary School	Godalming C.P. Junior Mixed School	Busbridge C. of E. School	Godalming C. of E. Primary Mixed School	Farncombe C. of E. Junior Mixed School	Farncombe C. of E. Infants Mixed School	Wharf Day Nursery	Totals
Chicken Pox ...	3	1	—	—	4	2	4	6	20
Measles ...	—	—	2	2	1	—	1	—	6
Mumps ...	2	4	14	1	4	—	—	—	25
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	7
Poliomyelitis ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	3
Scarlet Fever ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
German Measles...	1	2	4	—	6	—	—	—	13
Pink Eye ...	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Totals ...	8	9	25	8	16	2	8	6	82

**Diphtheria.** Cases of Diphtheria still continue to be reported from various parts of the British Isles, but fortunately none in Godalming. 123 cases with 10 deaths occurred under the age of 15 in England and Wales during 1955. Of the 10 children who died, 8 had never been immunised, and 2 had not received adequate and up to date protection. There were no deaths in children immunised within five years, and this only serves to stress the importance of maintaining a continuous and determined immunisation campaign.

The immunisation statistics for Godalming show that the percentage immunised within five years rose above the national target of 75%: it was in fact 76.44%. The aim is to immunise children in infancy, on entering School at five years, and again at ten years.

### Diphtheria Immunisation Statistics.

Age at 31st December, 1956	i.e., Born in Year	Number Immunised	Estimated mid-year Child Population, 1956	Number and Percentage Immunised
Under 1	1956	55	3311	2531 (76.44%)
1—4	1952—1955	593		
5—9	1947—1951	876		
10—14	1942—1946	1007		
Totals, under 15	—	2531	3311	2531 (76.44%)

(Figures for Charterhouse School not included as boys are domiciled outside the Borough.)

**Vaccination.** Smallpox, like Diphtheria, is a disease which has largely lost its terror as a killer, and in consequence it is not easy to impress on the public the need to be prepared for possible outbreaks by maintaining a high degree of immunity in the population through vaccination in infancy.

During 1956 there were 207 live births and, of these, 154 were vaccinated under the age of one year, a remarkably high figure which reflects great credit on those concerned, General Practitioners and Local Authority Health Services. The acceptance rate for infants in 1956 was double that for 1955.

Vaccination in infancy not only protects the infant, but lessens the reaction if in later life vaccination is required again, e.g. on entering the Services or going abroad.

**Tuberculosis.** There were sixteen new cases of Tuberculosis, all Pulmonary, during the year; this was the same as in 1955. There was no death.

Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis are now usually detected at a much earlier stage than previously. This, coupled with the fact that admission to Chest Hospitals can now be effected without any wait, and with the fact that treatment is much more effective (drug therapy and chest surgery), results in a quicker return to work and a vastly improved recovery rate and expectation of life.

There were 104 cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the end of the year, 54 males and 50 females, as against 102 at the end of 1955. The Housing Committee help wherever possible in those cases where existing housing is unsatisfactory.

The following Table shows age groups of new cases and deaths during 1956:—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1-5	...	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
5-10	...	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
10-15	...	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
15-20	...	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
20-25	...	1	—	—	...	—	—	—
25-35	(2*)	3	3*	—	...	—	—	—
35-45	(2*)	3	—	—	...	—	—	—
45-55	...	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
55-65	...	1	1*	—	...	—	—	—
65 and over	2	2	—	—	...	—	—	—
Totals	10	6	—	—	...	—	—	—

\* Transfers.

**After-Care.** Mr. Warner, who is Honorary Secretary and Treasurer to the Godalming and Haslemere Tuberculosis Care Committee, reports that sixteen Godalming and seven Haslemere families were assisted by the Committee during the year with grants covering clothing, fuel, extra nourishment, pocket money (local cases in Chest Hospitals) and other emergency and extra-ordinary expenses not provided for under the National Health Allowances. The cost was £129 5s. 0d.

The Christmas Seals Sale Appeal raised £113 17s. 5d. compared with £103 3s. 0d. in 1955. All Care Committees receive an annual grant of £50 from the Health Committee of the Surrey County Council, provided they raise not less than this amount by voluntary effort within their areas.

Mrs. E. Skelton is Chairman of the Committee and Miss J. S. Stearne, of the Godalming Health Department, acts as Assistant Honorary Secretary.

# Chief Public Health Inspector's Report

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## Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

### Summary of Routine and other Inspection Work carried out.

#### ROUTINE INSPECTIONS MADE.

Housing Inspections and Re-Inspections (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ... ..	1,450
Nuisances, Complaints, Advisory Visits, etc. ...	1,176
Inspections of—	
Drainage to Houses, including Tests ... ..	529
Bakehouses ... ..	42
Dairies, Milk-Shops, and Milk Stores ... ..	43
Factories, Work-Places and Outworkers' Premises	35
Food Shops and places where Food is prepared and stored, including Ice Cream Premises ...	303
Food Inspection ... ..	61
Premises, reference Provision of Dustbins ...	98
Piggeries ... ..	41
Public and Private Conveniences ... ..	20
Miscellaneous Inspections ... ..	142
Investigations and Inspections under—	
Shops and Young Persons Employment Acts ...	76
Petroleum and Carbide Acts ... ..	36
Infectious Diseases (including Disinfections) ...	237
Part IV Housing Act, 1936 (Overcrowding) ...	8
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 (including testing and treatments of sewers) ...	57
Water Supplies ... ..	44
Milk Samples ... ..	67
Water Samples ... ..	55
Ice Cream Samples ... ..	14
Cream Samples ... ..	7
Total ... ..	4,541

## NOTICES SERVED.

Statutory Notices	...	...	7
Informal Notices	...	...	259
			<hr/>
Total	...	...	266
			<hr/>
Not complied with at 31.12.56			9
			<hr/>

**Factories Acts, 1937—1948.**

(Information required by the Ministry of Labour and  
National Service.)

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND OTHER  
PREMISES UNDER THE ACT.

Premises.	Inspec- tions.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prose- cuted.
Factories with Mechanical Power ...	25	7	—
Factories without Mechanical Power	6	—	—
Other premises under the Act (in- cluding works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	10	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	41	7	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Premises.	Number of Defects		Referred by H.M. Inspector.	No. of Defects in respect of which Prosec- utions were Instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.		
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)				
Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective	7	6	1	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
	<hr/> 7 <hr/>	<hr/> 6 <hr/>	<hr/> 1 <hr/>	<hr/> — <hr/>

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

## WATER SUPPLIES.

Public Water Supply is by the Guildford, Godalming and District Water Board. The water is of a high standard of bacterial purity, and in addition all supplies are chlorinated to ensure a safe supply. No new sources were brought into use during the year.

Frequent samples are taken from all sources of supply and from various points within the Borough and other areas supplied.

During the year 44 bacteriological samples were taken from private wells and distribution points and of these 23 were satisfactory, 19 were below standard and 2 were unsatisfactory. Advice was given on general measures to prevent pollution of the supplies and repeat samples showed that the action taken was effective in remedying the unsatisfactory conditions. The water now maintains a good standard of bacterial purity. In addition three samples were taken for chemical analysis.

**Swimming Pool.** There is one small Swimming Pool in the Borough open to the public but privately owned. During the season eight samples of the Pool water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. Three of these samples were unsatisfactory and measures were advised to remedy the cause; repeat samples proved satisfactory.

The Pool has a continuous filtration system and is manually chlorinated. The water is changed at frequent intervals during the summer season.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

**New Drainage.** No new drainage works have been undertaken during the year under review, but there are proposals for new surface water sewers in Charterhouse Road and Catteshall Lane.

**Existing Drainage.** 529 inspections were made to drainage systems of private premises and 18 tests were carried out. In each case, defects found as a result of inspection and tests were remedied by the service of informal notices, except in seven cases where Formal Notices were served on Owners.

The number of inspections includes a large proportion made to surface water drainage systems. A full-scale effort has been made to divert as much surface water as possible from the soil sewers. Owners and occupiers have, with few exceptions, been most co-operative in carrying out suggested works.

**Sanitary Accommodation.** Premises in the Borough not connected to the main sewer by reason of impracticability or in a few cases where it would be uneconomical to make such a connection have the following alternative means of sewage disposal:—

- 4 Pail Closets serving four premises.
- 8 Chemical Closets serving four premises and ten Almshouses.
- 28 Cesspools serving 33 premises.

Most Cesspools have been adapted to act as septic tanks, the effluent being disposed of by means of sub-surface irrigation systems. Little difficulty was experienced during the year and nuisances arising were quickly abated on service of informal notices.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Two cases of pollution were reported during the year and on service of informal notices the streams were cleansed and measures taken to prevent recurrences of the nuisance.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The weekly collection of house refuse and salvage is maintained to all premises in the Borough by means of standard refuse collection vehicles. Refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping at Broadwater. This tip is very well maintained and is kept remarkably free from vermin.

- Standard refuse bins are required at all premises and defective bins renewed by occupiers, normally on service of an informal notice, though three Formal Notices were served on Owner/Occupiers who subsequently complied with the requirements of the notices and installed new dustbins.

## SHOPS ACT.

Seventy-six inspections and visits were made during the year to shop premises regarding the provisions of the Act with respect to sanitary accommodation, employees' welfare, closing hours, assistants' half-holidays, Sunday closing, etc. These provisions were generally well observed and all contraventions were remedied informally.

## PETROLEUM ACTS, 1928-1936.

There are 58 premises licensed annually for the storage of Petroleum Spirit and Petroleum Mixtures. During the year 36 inspections were made to these premises to ensure that licence conditions were observed, and adequate precautions taken. Two new units comprising underground tanks and surface pumps were installed and satisfied the standard tests.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Four complaints were received during the year concerning smoke nuisances. The persons responsible complied with the requirements of informal notices and abated the nuisance.

## INSECT PESTS.

During the year 27 infestations of various pests were dealt with successfully by the use of suitable insecticides in liquid or powder form.

The annual spraying of County Council School Canteens was carried out and a number of privately owned Cafes, Bakehouses, etc., were also treated for various pests.

## DISINFECTIONS.

Disinfections were carried out to nine premises following the removal to hospital, or death, of infectious persons.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades carried on within the Borough.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Council operates a successful scheme for the destruction of rats and mice and for this purpose employs a part-time Rodent Operator. There is a free service for private premises; business premises are charged either at an inclusive hourly rate of 7/6d., or at a yearly contract price.

The service is operated in accordance with the Ministry's instructions and the cost of the whole service attracts a 50 % Government Grant.

**Private Premises.** Infestations reported by occupiers of premises or revealed during inspections made by the Rodent Operator are quickly dealt with.

Essential works of rat-proofing, removal of harbourage, etc., are generally carried out by occupiers with little difficulty, and no Formal Notices were served during the year.

**Business Premises.** Business premises liable to re-infestation by reason of the nature of work carried on, are offered a Contract service providing at least once-monthly inspections and the carrying out of any treatments required.

Twenty-four contracts produced an income of £100 for the year.

**Sewer Treatments.** The whole of the soil sewer system in the Borough is tested twice yearly and treatments carried out to infested sections. Only minor infestations were discovered and these were successfully dealt with.

**Rodent Operator.** I would again commend to the Council the services of Mr. C. E. Hall, who continues to give very satisfactory service, combining the duties of part-time Rodent Operator with other general duties in pest destruction, drainage tests, disinfections, etc., also other duties under the Borough Surveyor.

### NEW HOUSING.

The number of new houses erected during the year was as follows:—

1. By the Council	...	...	...	...	42
2. By other persons	...	...	...	...	66
3. Number of houses converted into flats	...				1

The Council's main programme of building is at the Binscombe Estate, Farncombe. In the latter part of the year work commenced on twenty-four old people's dwellings in Meadow, Farncombe.

The number of applicants on the Council's housing list totalled 587 at the 31st December, 1956, and during the year 78 applicants were re-housed. Applicants living in unfit or overcrowded houses, or suffering from Tuberculosis or other circumstances prejudicial to health are referred to the Department for enquiry and report, and receive special consideration by the Housing Committee.

### EXISTING HOUSING.

The Council's programme for dealing with existing housing in the area is broadly divided into three phases.

(1) **Unfit Houses.** The programme for dealing with over one hundred unfit houses scheduled for action within the next five years is already well advanced. During the year a further twenty-seven houses were represented as being unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable expense. Twenty of these houses are ultimately to be demolished, seven will be converted and improved; ten houses are already vacant.

(2) **Improvement Grants.** Since the inception of this scheme in 1949, the Council has given every encouragement to property owners to take advantage of the very generous provisions offered. It is surprising to find the total of applications so low, having in mind the considerable number of dwellings in the Borough without Bathrooms, Hot Water Systems, Indoor Water-closets and proper Food Stores.

During the year forty-one applications were received and Grants totalling approximately £7,000 were approved in thirty-eight cases. This brings the total number of applications received since 1949 to ninety-five. Details are as follows:—

Works completed	...	...	38
Works in progress	...	...	19
Approved but not commenced	...	...	20
Refused or withdrawn	...	...	18
Total			95

(3) **Inspection and Repair.** The failure of the Housing Rent and Repairs Act of 1954 to secure the repair of rented houses by offering rent increases in return for expenditure on repairs has left a complex problem. Many houses in the lower rented groups will in the course of the next few years become unfit for occupation and be suitable only for demolition unless considerable repair works are carried out to them soon. Further legislation is under consideration with a view to solving this problem.

During the year a considerable amount of repair works to houses was required and effected by the service of Informal and Formal Notices under the Housing and Public Health Acts. The majority of repairs do not go much beyond essential items of wind and weather-proofing because of high costs and low rents, whereas in fact general repairs, modernisation and improvement works are really necessary.

Eleven Formal Notices under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, two Formal Notices under Section 58 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and three Formal Notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, were served and in each case the necessary works carried out by Owners.

**Certificates of Disrepair.** No applications were received and no existing Certificates revoked during the year.

## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

**General.** A total of 449 visits have been made to various food premises used for the storage, preparation, manufacture, or sale of food intended for human consumption.

Works to existing food premises, conversions and alterations, and proposals for new premises are carefully supervised with the co-operation of other Departments. Advice and suggestions by the Department in the early stages of construction or improvement schemes are much appreciated and result in the maintenance of a good standard.

The Food Hygiene Regulations of 1955 came fully into force during the year and inspections are being made to enforce these Regulations at all food premises in the Borough.

With few exceptions owners and occupiers have readily carried out the requirements of written and verbal notices served. During inspection an opportunity was taken for advice and discussion on food hygiene problems with persons engaged in the various trades. Several large scale schemes of improvements to premises have been put in hand during the year, particularly in the meat trade. The resultant works have made the premises and the processes carried on at such premises among the most up-to-date in the area.

**Food Inspection.** The following is a list of foodstuffs inspected during the year and found to be unfit for human consumption. All these goods were voluntarily surrendered and collected by the Health Department for proper disposal by means of controlled tipping and incineration, or salvaged for animal feeding stuffs, etc. No difficulties have been experienced.

### Perishable Goods:

Meat, English and Imported			
including Offals	...	...	451 lbs.
Fish	...	...	14 stone
Miscellaneous	...	...	86 lbs.

### Tinned Goods:

Fruits	...	...	...	119 tins
Vegetables	...	...	...	109 tins
Meats	...	...	...	55 tins
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	47 tins

**Milk Supplies.** All milk supplies sold or distributed in the Borough are designated milks. There are four dairies

licensed for the sale of Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested, and Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk. Seven persons hold licences to sell Sterilised Milk, and two distributors hold licences to sell Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk in the Borough from premises situated outside the area.

Routine inspection and sampling is carried out at all licensed premises and from distributors, to ensure that the milk is handled, stored and distributed in accordance with Regulations.

During the year 67 samples of Milk were taken and submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory at St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford. This laboratory provides a free service for Local Authorities and is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health.

Samples taken were as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	...	12
Sterilised Milk	... ..	6
Pasteurised Milk	... ..	20
Tuberculin Tested Milk	... ..	20

Sixty-five samples satisfied the prescribed tests. In addition to submission for bacteriological examination, sixteen samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were examined biologically for the presence of tubercle bacilli. No evidence of infection was found.

Seven samples of Cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination: three of these were unsatisfactory. Following representation to the producers, action was taken by them to remedy unsatisfactory conditions and repeat samples proved satisfactory.

**Ice Cream Premises (and Confectioners).** No ice cream is manufactured in the Borough and no 'loose' ice cream sold except from the proper premises. Premises are licensed for the sale and storage of ice cream, and during the year two new licences were granted. Two licence holders sell ice cream from mobile vehicles but all ice cream is wrapped or in closed containers.

Fourteen samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted to the Methylene Blue Test; all the samples gave satisfactory results and were placed in Grade 1.

**Bakehouses and Cake Shops.** There are thirteen premises used primarily for the sale of bread, cakes and confectionery; nine of these have their own bakehouses. There are no underground bakehouses in the Borough.

Regular visits are paid to all bakehouses to enforce the various provisions. Written and verbal notices were served requiring cleansing, repairs and structural improvements, and these were generally well complied with, except in one case where further action is being considered.

**Fish Shops.** There are eight fish shops in the Borough, four of these being Fried Fish Shops. All shops now have closed fronts and the premises are generally well maintained and little difficulty experienced.

**Licensed Premises.** The twenty-three licensed premises in the Borough have satisfactory sanitary accommodation for persons frequenting the premises. All are supplied with adequate facilities for cleansing glasses, etc., and have a constant supply of hot water to sinks.

**Restaurants, Cafes and Canteens.** Inspections have been made to the twenty-two premises classed under this heading to secure compliance with the recent legislation. Occupiers co-operated in maintaining a good standard and no statutory action was necessary.

**Grocers, Greengrocers, etc.** There are forty-nine such premises at present in use. Inspections and advisory visits are made to promote cleanliness, prevent forms of contamination and ensure that adequate washing facilities and hot water supplies are readily available for all persons employed. Foodstuffs inspected and found unfit for human consumption are listed elsewhere in this Report.

**Meat Supplies.** All slaughterhouses within the Borough remain closed and no licences have been issued since the Borough joined a scheme whereby the majority of home-killed meat consumed in the area is supplied through the modern Abattoir at Guildford. The existing slaughterhouses are sited unsatisfactorily and their condition is such that it would be uneconomical to put them in good order sufficient to meet modern requirements. The present arrangement appears to be working quite satisfactorily.

The fourteen Butchers' shops in the Borough are all registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act,

1955, for the manufacture of sausages, etc. All are inspected to detect contraventions of the various enactments, and for the inspection of meat and other products. Meat and offal found to be unfit for human consumption is listed under Food Inspection, and disposal is as described. The quantity found unfit is minute compared with the amount consumed in the area, and there is little doubt that the quality of meat offered for sale continues to improve.

### **Adulteration and Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**

The Surrey County Council administers those provisions of the Food and Drugs Acts, within the Borough, dealing with the sampling and analysis of articles of food, etc., for the detection of adulterations, deterioration, etc.

The County Medical Officer of Health reports that the following samples were taken in the Borough and analysed during 1956:—

Formal: 27 samples of Milk and 2 of Double Cream.

Informal: 7 samples of Milk; 4 of Instant Puddings; 2 samples of Jam; and one each of Bacon, Butter, Cheese, Cooking Fat, Sausages, Wine, Aspirin Tablets and Cough Syrup.

None were found to be adulterated or irregular.

The County Council carried out the following sampling and analyses of food and drugs during 1956 in the whole of the County area for which they are the Food and Drugs Authority:—

Samples analysed—involving 86 items of food and drugs:

Formal	...	...	...	770
Informal	...	...	...	198

Found "adulterated or irregular":

Formal	...	...	...	38
Informal	...	...	...	4

Legal proceedings were instituted and a conviction obtained against a dairy farmer for selling Channel Island Milk deficient in milk fat.

## **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

The Surrey County Council Clinics are as follows:

### **At "Hillsleigh," Nightingale Road, Godalming.**

- Ante-Natal: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2 to 4 p.m.  
Child Welfare: Wednesdays and Fridays, 2 to 4 p.m. (No Doctor on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays).  
Child Guidance: Mondays (by appointment only).  
Dental: Mondays, 9.30 a.m. Other days and times by appointment only.  
Diphtheria Immunisation: School-children at School Medical Clinics. Pre-School Children at Child Welfare Clinics.  
Eye: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2 p.m. 2nd Wednesdays a.m. 4th Tuesdays a.m. (by appointment only).  
School Medical: Fridays, 9.30 a.m. (except during School Summer Holidays).

### **At St. Mark's Hall, Ockford Ridge, Godalming.**

- Welfare Clinics: Every Wednesday, 2 to 4 p.m. (No Doctor on 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays).

### **At Milford Chest Hospital, near Godalming.**

- Chest Clinic: 1st and 3rd Friday afternoons. 1.45 to 4.30 p.m. Other weeks a Clinic is held on Wednesday afternoons, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. (by appointment).

### **At Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford.**

#### **Venereal Diseases:**

Males: Tuesdays and Fridays, 5 to 7 p.m.

Females: Mondays, 3 to 7 p.m. Thursdays, 9.30 to 11 a.m.

